

**APPROVED**

**STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN WITH  
DISABILITIES**

**April 7, 2006  
Hamilton-Boone-Madison  
Carmel, IN**

**ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Becky Kirk, Bret Lewis, Gary Bates, John Nally, Kathy Mears, Mary Ramos, Jane Swiss, , Karol Farrell, Steve Tildon, Bessie Henson, Christina Endres, Marcia Johnson, James Hammond, Cheryl Shearer, Cindy Lawrence for David Geeslin

**ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:**

David Schmidt, Stephanie Beasley; Pete Bisbecos, Rose Black, Cynthia Diamond, Dawn Downer, Martha Farris, David Geeslin, Cathleen Hardy Hansen, Julie Swaim, Sarah Renner, Steve Tildon

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DEL) STAFF PRESENT:**

Bob Marra, Paul Ash, Nina Brahm, Becky Reynolds

**GUESTS:**

Gary Collings, Sharon Knoth, Dr. Michael Bushong (Jennings County), , Rick McCleod (Jennings County), Jason Holland (Jennings County), Amber Fields (Jennings County), William McKinney (Jennings County), Glorianna Robbins (Jennings County Board Member/Parent), Connie Griffith (Madison Area Education Special Services Unit), Chris Trayner (MAESSU)

**VISITORS**

Gayle Foy (IPIN), Marsha Cheesman (IPIN) Liz Freeman (Autism Coalition), Loui Lord Nelson (COVOH), Susan Lockwood (IDOC), Linda Miller (IN\*SOURCE)

**INTERPRETERS:**

Julie Armstrong, Randy Nicolai

## **MEETING**

B. Kirk chaired the meeting in D. Schmidt's absence. The meeting was called to order at 9:20 a.m. State Advisory Council (SAC) members introduced themselves.

## **MINUTES**

The minutes from the meeting on March 3, 2006, were approved as a correct document.

## **PETITION FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION REORGANIZATION JENNINGS COUNTY SCHOOLS**

Dr. Michael Bushong, Superintendent for Jennings County Schools was introduced to SAC to present the proposed reorganization plan to withdraw from Madison Area Educational Special Services Unit (MAESSU).

Dr. Bushong presented a power point highlighting administrative structure; interim alternative education settings; students currently served outside of Jennings County, support staff/programs; student information with regard to multiple disability, orthopedic impairment, visual impairment, hearing impaired, emotional disturbed-full time/part time, learning disability, developmental delay, communication disability, mild mental disability, moderate mental disability, severe mental disability, homebound with Rx, deaf/blind, autism spectrum disability, traumatic brain injury, and other health impaired.

J. Hammond asked for justification as to why Jennings County thinks that they can now withdraw from MAESSU. R. McLeod responded that Jennings County's population has grown and thus the special education population has grown also to justify the services needed. J. Hammond inquired about inter-agency agreements for transition-to-work and adult services providers. R. McLeod indicated that they have a good working relationship with Vocational Rehabilitation in their community. They have several students in community-based placements and settings. There are not enough jobs available in Jennings County. They are working with Versailles Career Center for access and training. They also have students who are programmed jointly with Scipio and Developmental Services in Columbus.

K. Farrell asked what the ADM count was this year at JCS. R. McLeod responded that it was 5,308 with 20%-25% identified as being students with disabilities. R. McLeod referred to the 5-year graph showing a continual increase. Most of the increase seems to focus on Autism Spectrum Disorder and Emotional Disabilities.

K. Farrell inquired whether there was general education intervention in place. R. McLeod said that they have training in place from ISU in Terre Haute and have seen a reduction in “inappropriate referrals’ due to that training.

J. Hammond asked if there were services for special needs students with English as a second language. Dr. Bushong said that yes they have staff in place to address these students.

B. Kirk referred to staffing for school and concerns regarding resource teachers and children in resource rooms. R. McCloud said that the children are in inclusive classes not resource rooms. The students are in moderate classes. R. McCloud stated that “resource” was the wrong word to use.

J. Hammond asked what the percentage of students that are staying in the system to the age of 22. R. McCloud said that he was unable to give an accurate answer.

G. Bates questioned Dr. Bushong what the primary reason was for wanting to withdraw. Dr. Bushong responded that it is more than just funding it is a programming process. Having access to Part B money will enable them to serve their students more effectively. G. Bates also inquired about the monies that are earmarked for students with disabilities and carryover money. Dr. Bushong replied that Jennings County will get a portion of that carryover money and MAESSU will get some of that money also. G. Bates asked B. Marra if high carryover was common. B. Marra said that yes the carryover is high and that the decision is usually a local matter. We try to work with programs to prevent high carryover.

B. Kirk asked about community-based instruction. A. Fields responded that the students are learning life skills such as purchasing groceries.

K. Farrell inquired if the children would attend their home school. R. McCleod said that yes they will and that it would depend on their IEP.

B. Henson questioned the student’s home school from MAESSU and getting the students back to their home school. Dr. Bushong said that financially they are unable to have an ED person in each home school.

K. Mears asked about consultation with nonpublic schools. J. Holland answered that they have testing and consultation with staff and guidance counselors at St. Mary’s when needed.

M. Johnson asked about parent surveys. R. McCleod indicated that they had not conducted such surveys but there were newspaper articles and discussions at the school board meetings. They had not received any negative responses from the community.

B. Henson inquired about early childhood programs and headstart. J. Holland responded that a meeting is scheduled in late April to discuss Article 7 and consultation processes with the day cares and Head Start providers in the community.

J. Hammond asked if MAESSU would accept Jennings County back if the program did not work out. Dr. Bushong said that he would certainly approach them.

B. Marra questioned R. McCleod with regard to high school entry. J. Holland spoke with regard to their magnet school program at Sand Creek.

B. Marr inquired about Assistant Director listed for Autism. J. Holland said that it would depend on the student's needs as to who their teacher of record would be. Dr. Bushong said that there is a parent advisory council. The purpose of the council is to put in place the P.L. 221 plan.

B. Lewis questioned the transition of staff from MAESSU to Jennings Co. and the impact on current staff. Dr. Bushong said yes, it may have some impact. Dr. Bushong said that some general education staff would be receiving notices.

## **MAESSU PRESENTATION**

Connie Griffith, Director, MAESSU presented the history of their program, program services and assurances. Ms. Griffith indicated that the state hospital programs have been moved back into the schools. One shared program is the day treatment program. There are currently 10 students in this program

Ms. Griffith indicated that the biggest impact will be that Jennings County is the largest cooperative in the SSU. The SSU will not cut back on services and will keep staff currently employed. Even though 32% of the students are leaving, the students that the SSU has will get more services. Ms. Griffith added that transportation services will not decrease.

M. Johnson asked about the grant work with Huntsville, Alabama. What Exceptionality and age group is involved? C. Griffith responded that it involves children ages 12 years and older who have an emotional disability. It is a blended funded program with the Juvenile Justice, Family and Children's Services and DEL. Each pay 1/3/ of the costs. The DEL pays for the educational component. Ms. Griffith added that the SSU is working on more placements like these.

J. Swiss inquired about the loss of employees. Ms. Griffith said that there will be no loss of employment. If they are at the SSU the employees will stay. Staff that

is working with Jennings County will go with Jennings County. Two administrative people will leave but will probably be hired at Jennings County.

J. Swiss asked if the issue of highly qualified (HQ) is affecting MAESSU. C. Griffith responded that yes, but they are working with staff to look at the HOUSSE and HQ requirements. J. Swiss also inquired if staff would be moved around because of the HQ requirements. C. Griffith said yes.

B. Lewis asked about the financial impact to the cooperative for services for the other schools. C. Griffith responded that with Jennings County leaving they will take 32% of the funds but also the bills. Jennings County leaving will not negatively affect the SSU. B. Lewis confirmed that the withdrawal will not affect the other schools in the cooperative. C. Griffith said that the Board reviewed this before the vote took place and that the finances were in place to keep going. C. Griffith also indicated that she does not foresee the remaining school districts having to pay more for services.

C. Sherer referred to the numbers presented and asked if the 14% of the children that are emotionally disturbed included Jennings County. C. Griffith indicated that the 14% does not include Jennings County and that they have services in place for these students along with mental health counseling.

J. Hammond asked about any adverse consequences with regard to the separation. C. Griffith commented that as with anything there are layers, and as always there will be concerns and parent problems.

J. Hammond inquired if there are other counties wanting to join MAESSU. C. Griffith said that no other counties have asked to join them. She does not see that being an issue.

B. Kirk asked for vote. M. Johnson made the motion that Jennings County be allowed to withdrawal. G. Bates seconded.

The vote was a unanimous vote 13 in favor. Motion carried.

G. Bates stated that he would like a progress report from Jennings County in a year.

## **HOUSEKEEPING**

B. Reynolds reminded SAC that the meeting for Friday, May 5, 2006 and meetings for the remainder of the year will be at Carmel Clay Education Center.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

## **Article 7 Parent Forum Hosted by IN\*SOURCE/IPIN/Department of Education**

B. Marra discussed the Parent Forum that was held on March 8, 2006, and referred to the "Participant Responses" document. B. Marra stated that overall it was a very nice day. Participates had insightful questions that will be taken into consideration when reviewing Article 7.

B. Henson also attended the forum and responded that she thought it was a very pleasant day and there was good discussion.

## **OSEP Visit**

The week of August 14, 2006, the US DOE will be in Indiana to monitor DEL. We are one of three states who have not been directly monitored in years as the submission of our paperwork has been received positively. US DOE will be reviewing both Part C and Part B. They have indicated that they would accept the SAC as the 'public input' for the visit. Options were discussed and SAC agreed, if the US DOE approved, that a conference call at the June 2, 2006, meeting would be most efficient.

B. Marra informed the SAC that there were no formal questions shared but that there are questions that were given to the DEL, which will be sent to SAC members for review before the June 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting. P. Ash said he would assist in distributing this information.

## **Meeting**

Next meeting will be on Friday May 5, 2006 at Carmel Clay Educational Service Center.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT (Audience comments, if any)**

Visitors had no comments.

## **ARTICLE 7 CARRIED OVER FROM MARCH 3, 2006 MEETING**

N. Brahm revisited issues that required follow-up due to the previous meeting's Article 7 revision discussion.

The following issues were discussed:

- Item 1 – FERPA Provision;
- Item 2 – Confidentiality of Information
- Item 3 – "Must" Versus "Shall"

## **ARTICLE 7 REVISIONS**

N. Brahm led discussion of the draft rules for the meeting.

Rule 24

Rule 27 – 1, 2, 3

Rule 25 will not be reviewed until Rule 26 has been reviewed.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT (Audience comments, if any)**

B. Marra addressed the visitors (particularly those from parent groups), and asked them for future comment with regard to 511 27-42-3(8)(h).

**Meeting adjourned at 3:15 pm.**